

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~14~~18, further comprising applying a filter to the electronic message, such that the electronic message is approved if the electronic message passes the filter.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~14~~18, further comprising applying a filter to the electronic message, such that the electronic message is rejected if the electronic message passes the filter.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~24, further comprising, if delivery of the electronic message to the intended recipient is approved, sending a notification to the first user.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (New) A method for operating an electronic messaging system comprising:  
routing an electronic message intended for a first user to at least two approvers, instead of the first user;  
presenting the electronic message to at least one of the approvers for approval or rejection;  
determining whether the electronic message is approved or rejected by applying a predetermined policy toward approval or rejection actions by the at least one of the approvers presented with the electronic message;  
routing the electronic message to the first user if it is approved; and  
synchronizing displays to the approvers whereby once the electronic message is approved or rejected by one approver, the display for the at least one other approver is updated according to a changed status for the electronic message.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said pre-determined policy is such that the electronic message is approved or rejected when either one of the at least two approvers first approves or rejects it.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein, once the electronic message is approved or rejected by either one of the at least two approvers, the other at least one approver will no longer be presented with the electronic message.

21. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said pre-determined policy is such that the electronic message is approved when both of the at least two approvers approve it, and rejected when either one of the at least two approvers rejects it.

22. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said electronic message is routed to the at least two approvers by being routed to a single folder, accessible by the at least two approvers from multiple devices at multiple locations.

23. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said electronic message is routed to the first user by being routed to a folder, accessible by the first user from multiple devices at multiple locations.

24. (New) A method for operating an electronic messaging system comprising:  
directing an outgoing electronic message having an intended recipient sent by a first user to at least two approvers, instead of the intended recipient;

presenting the electronic message to at least one of the approvers for approval or rejection;

determining whether the electronic message is approved or rejected by applying a predetermined policy toward approval or rejection actions by the at least one of the approvers presented with the electronic message;

routing the electronic message to the recipient if it is approved; and

synchronizing displays to the approvers whereby once the electronic message is approved or rejected by one approver, the display for the at least one other approver is updated according to a changed status for the electronic message.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said pre-determined policy is such that the electronic message is approved or rejected when either one of the at least two approvers first approves or rejects it.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein, once the electronic message is approved or rejected by either one of the at least two approvers, the other at least one approver will no longer be presented with the electronic message.

27. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said pre-determined policy is such that the electronic message is approved when both of the at least two approvers approve it, and rejected when either one of the at least two approvers rejects it.

28. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said electronic message is routed to the at least two approvers by being routed to a single folder accessible by the at least two approvers, from multiple devices at multiple locations.